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BRIEF NOTE

TWO SABELLID POLYCHAETES OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY[1]

KEITH VERNER,[2] National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Biological Field Station, P.O. Box 155, Hammond, Oregon 97121

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The sabellid polychaete *Manayunkia speciosa* was first described (from the east coast of the United States) by Leidy (1858); it was later found by Krecker (1939), Britt (1965), and others in the Great Lakes. Bay in one benthic grab sample (0.05m^2 Ponar dredge) in March 1979 and five grab samples in June 1979 (fig. 1). This is the first reported appearance of this species in the Columbia River system.

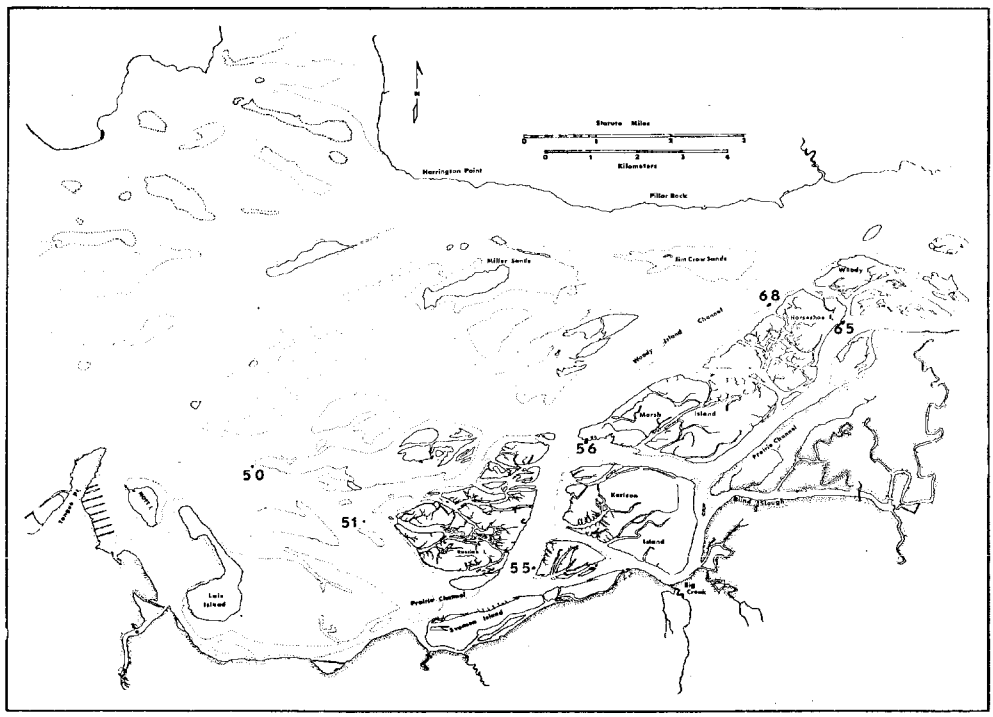

Figure 1 Six benthic grab sites where Manayunkia speciosa was found in Cathlamet Bay.

Manayunkia speciosa was reported in southern Oregon and California by Hazel (1966) and from lakes in northern Alaska by Holmquist (1967, 1973). In a recent study of benthic infauna of the Columbia River estuary, *M. speciosa* was found in Cathlamet

Physical parameters at sites where *M. speciosa* was found are presented in table 1, and sediment particle sizes at these sites are presented in table 2. Station 50 was the most downstream site at which *M. speciosa* was found. During spring, this station is usually upstream from saltwater intrusion; however, in summer and fall, bottom salinity increases there when river flow is reduced.

[1]Manuscript received 17 June 1980 (#80-34).
[2]Present address: Section of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology, Wing Hall, Cornell Univ. Ithaca NY 14853

TABLE 1

Physical parameters at sites where Manayunkia speciosa was found in benthic samples from Cathlamet Bay, March and June 1979.

Station	Number	Depth (m)	Salinity (%)	Temp. (°C)
68*	1	9.14	0.14	4.22
50	2	2.13	0.00	16.10
51	1	3.96	0.00	16.20
55	2	2.44	0.00	16.40
56	5	6.40	0.00	15.90
65	2	3.35	0.00	16.30

*Station 68 collected in March, all other stations collected in June.

Specimens of *Fabricia sabella oregonica* Banse, a marine species of sabellid polychaete, were found in a nonquantitative sample taken near the mouth of the Columbia River, and its occurrence is reported herein primarily because of its close relation to the freshwater species *M. speciosa*. Leidy (1883) noted a similar biogeographical relationship of a species of *Fabricia* to *M. speciosa* on the east coast in the Schuylkill River at Fairmount, Philadelphia.

TABLE 2

Particle size and organic content of sediment at sites where Manayunkia speciosa was found in benthic samples from Cathlamet Bay.

Size (mm)	Station					
	68	50	51	55	56	65
	Percentage Particle Size					
2-8*	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
1-2	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.26
0.5-1	4.24	0.09	0.24	0.77	2.53	1.36
0.25-0.5	49.50	2.88	12.03	3.50	32.26	12.00
0.125-0.25	42.67	57.16	66.01	39.80	44.93	60.33
0.063-0.125	2.88	31.59	13.72	33.40	12.27	16.09
0.002-0.063	0.41	7.68	6.40	21.35	7.58	8.44
<0.002	0.02	0.61	1.60	1.12	0.40	1.49
	Organic Content (%)					
	0.76	2.48	2.40	4.20	2.30	2.51

*No particles greater than 8 mm measured.

With the discovery of *M. speciosa* and *F. sebella oregonica*, the polychaete family Sabellidae is represented in the Columbia River estuary by two genera. Specimens of *M. speciosa* were sent to M. H. Pettibone of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., for verification and have been deposited along with *F. sebella oregonica* in the worm collection of the National Musuem of Natural History, catalog numbers 58805 and 58806, respectively.

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